

# Department of Justice High-Risk Metropolitan Area Interoperability Assistance Project *Detroit, Michigan*



## Addressing Interoperability

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Wireless Management Office (WMO) has been working toward improving long-term federal interagency communications across the Nation. As an interim step, and as a response to a request from the House/Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee staff, the DOJ WMO has been leading the High-Risk Metropolitan Area Interoperability Assistance Project to provide targeted cities with basic and immediate interagency communications capabilities among local, state, and federal agencies during emergency response. Twenty-five cities were selected using criteria that included perceived risk and population size. As stakeholders in 1 of the 25 cities, Detroit metropolitan area, local, state, and federal public safety agencies have been working collaboratively with the DOJ WMO to address basic interoperable communications.

## Participating Agencies

Partnership among Detroit area local, state, and federal public safety agencies has been instrumental in the development of comprehensive interoperability solution sets. Participating agencies have included—

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)
- CSX Police
- Detroit Emergency Medical Services
- Detroit Fire and Police Departments
- Detroit Water and Sewerage Department
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Genesee County
- Macomb County
- Monroe County
- Michigan State Police
- Oakland County
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- U.S. Marshals Service (USMS)
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)
- U.S. Secret Service (USSS)
- Wayne County

## Key Successes

DOJ and area stakeholders successfully achieved basic interoperability and emergency response communications improvements in the Detroit metropolitan area through the implementation of three interoperability solutions. The solutions support the use of existing interoperability resources and disparate communications systems by extending coverage, capacity, and availability to more public safety agencies. Additionally, in the course of meeting this project's interoperability goals, stakeholders were able to expand the working relationships among local, state, and federal agencies to resolve interoperability objectives for the area.

The first solution provides interagency communications by leveraging the Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS), a regional 800 megahertz (MHz) system, and supports communications among local, state, and federal agencies. This solution was implemented by installing MPSCS consolettes at selected agencies dispatch centers, including ATF, CBP, DEA, FBI, ICE, RCMP, USCG, USMS, USPIS, and USSS. The establishment of emergency interoperability talk groups within the MPSCS will be a component of this solution.

The second solution leverages the existing 800 MHz National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) mutual-aid channels. Two 800 MHz NPSPAC repeaters are being added to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department system, thereby providing interagency communications between local 800 MHz MPSCS users and 800 MHz users not on the MPSCS.

The third solution outfitted an existing mobile audio switch with additional very high frequency (VHF), ultra high frequency (UHF), and 800 MHz radios. The mobile audio switch is operated and maintained by the FBI and available for deployment in the Detroit metropolitan area. This equipment better prepares agencies to interoperate with other first responders at an incident scene by providing agencies with ad hoc interoperability links and communications coverage.

To address management issues related to the new interoperability equipment, DOJ worked with several stakeholders to develop standard operating procedures (SOP) to outline the use of communications equipment and to ensure proper operation of interoperability resources. Assistance included developing SOPs and an interoperability resource guide regarding proper use of the area's mutual-aid channels and mobile resources.

## Moving Forward

The cooperation and support between participating agencies and DOJ WMO provided scalable solutions designed to give additional agencies access to the interoperability solutions. Sustained operations, maintenance, and support of these interoperability solutions will be coordinated by key stakeholders. These efforts, along with stakeholder support, will ensure continuity in addressing interoperable communications among public safety agencies in the Detroit metropolitan area.

## Contact Information

If you would like to know more about this initiative and the interoperability solutions, please contact—

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